

### REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), rejected claims 5-8 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and stated that claims 16-20 are allowed.

As indicated above, claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-4 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and withdraws the rejection to claims 5-8 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

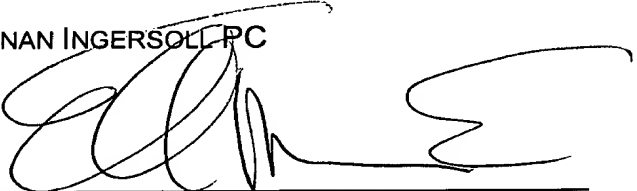
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: January 20, 2006

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